

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8745

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USCINCSO

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 6012

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJ: BELIZE: MOLINA'S VIEWS ON UK RESOLUTION AND THE FUTURE
OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA ORANTES AT NOON OCT 29 TO DISCUSS GUATEMALAN REACTION TO UK DRAFT RESOLUTION ON BELIZE. FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBED THE VISIT TO GUATEMALA OVER THE PAST WEEK-END OF IVOR RICHARD, UKUN PERMREP, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE VISIT. HE WAS DEPRESSED AND CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY THE FACT THAT THE BURDEN OF RICHARD'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN THAT THE PRESENT DRAFT HAD BEEN THE BEST THE BRITISH COULD DO, THAT THEY WOULD ENTERTAIN GUATEMALAN SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN FORM BUT NOT IN SUBSTANCE AND THAT UK WAS READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA IN JANUARY AFTER PASSAGE OF THE UK RESOLUTION WHICH UK WAS CONFIDENT WOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE UN. MOLINA EMPHASIZED THAT GUATEMALA IS READY AND WILLING TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE BELIZE DISPUTE BUT NEGOTIATIONS IN JAN. WOULD BE CONDITIONED BY THE NARROWLY-RESTRICTIVE TERMS OF THE UK RESOLUTION.

2. MOLINA SAID UK IS CARRYING ON INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN
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SUPPORT FOR ITS RESOLUTION. SPAIN HAS PRIVATELY INFORMED GUATE-

MALA UK AMBASSADOR IN MADRID SOUGHT SUPPORT FROM SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER BUT WAS TURNED DOWN. SIMILAR REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECIEVED FROM SWITZERLAND AND ELSEWHERE. GUATEMALA COUNTS ON US NOT RPT NOT TO VOTE FOR UK RESOLUTION. AT THE VERY LEAST, US SHOULD ABSTAIN.

3. FONMIN SAID GUATEMALA HOPES TO INSCRIBE ITS OWN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE THE BELIZE PROBLEM BEFORE THE UK RESOLUTION BUT CANNOT BE CONFIDENT OF WHICH RESOLUTION WILL COME TO A VOTE FIRST IN THE UN. GUATEMALA STRONGLY HOPES THAT US WILL VOTE FOR THE GUATEMALAN RESOLUTION.

AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD GIVE HIM NO ASSURANCES ON THIS AS HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT A US POSITION HAD YET BEEN FORMULATED.

4. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT, MOLINA SAID, BOTH HE AND THE PRESIDENT WERE VERY DISCOURAGED. INSTEAD OF GIVING GUATEMALA A FACE-SAVING WAY OUT OF THE BELIZE PROBLEM, THE UK SEEMED TO BE CLOSING THE DOOR. FONMIN AGREED OFF-THE-RECORD WITH AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT THAT MOST OF THE POPULATION OF GUATEMALA COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT BELIZE. THE DANGER CAME, HE SAID, FROM EMOTIONAL AND ARTICULATE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNING GROUP, ESPECIALLY FROM THE MILITARY. THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD MOLINA THAT UNLESS THEY COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER THESE GROUPS AS THE RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT WELL END UP HANGING FROM THE LAMP POSTS IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL PALACE.

5. AMBASSADOR AGAIN STRESSED THE OPPOSITION OF THE USG TO THE USE OF FORCE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ONCE MORE STRESSED THE FOLLY OF A GUATEMALAN MILITARY ADVENTURE IN BELIZE. HE SAID GUATEMALAN MILITARY ACTION IN BELIZE COULD NOT POSSIBLY PROVIDE A SOLUTION, WAS BOUND TO END IN DISASTER, AND COULD DESTROY THE SOCIAL

AND POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS ITS PRESENTLY FAVORABLE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE PROMISING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMS OF THE PRESIDENT. MOLINA AGREED BUT SAID THE BRITISH ARE MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GUATEMALA TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON REASONABLE TERMS. MEANWHILE,
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INTERNAL PRESSURES ARE MOUNTING AGAINST THE FORCES OF MODERATION, PATIENCE AND REASON. GUATEMALA COUNTS DESPERATELY ON THE US TO "PUT WATER ON THE FIRE" AND HELP GUATEMALA FIND A WAY OUT.
MELOY

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